

Message Text

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16

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 H-02 SS-15 NSC-05

EUR-12 /064 W

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R 011240Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5562

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 7582

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR EG US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: TWA TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

REF: CAIRO 6639

SUMMARY: GOE HAS REQUESTED THAT FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS BE UNDERTAKEN TO RESOLVE MATTERS OF RESTRICTIONS ON TWA CAIRO/ROME AND CAIRO/ATHENS TRAFFIC, ALTHOUGH RESTRICTIONS REMAIN SUSPENDED UNTIL OCTOBER 1. DATE SUGGESTED IS EARLY SEPTEMBER IN CAIRO. END SUMMARY.

1. IN EARLY JULY, EMBASSY RECEIVED AN MFA NOTE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE RESTRICTIONS ON TWA'S TRAFFIC FROM CAIRO TO ROME AND TO ATHENS HAD BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL JULY 31, AND REQUESTING NEGOTIATIONS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE PRIOR TO THAT TIME. IN REPLY, EMBASSY NOTE ADVISED MFA OF AGREEMENT REACHED WITH MINCIVAVIATION ABU ZEID JULY 3 (REFTEL), SUSPENDING IMPOSITION OF ANY RESTRICTIONS UNTIL OCTOBER 1.

2. WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED A FURTHER NOTE OF JULY 26, REITERATING REQUEST FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN CAIRO AND ACKNOWLEDGING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXTENSION OF RESTRICTION DEADLINE UNTIL OCTOBER OR

"UNTIL DATE OF CONDUCTING NEGOTIATIONS, WHICHEVER IS NEARER."

3. EMBOFF DISCUSSED CONTENTS OF MESSAGE WITH ABU ZEID, AND WITH GENERAL YEHIA SHENNAWI, CHAIRMAN OF CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY, ORGANIZATION THAT WILL REPRESENT GOE IN NEGOTIATIONS. THEY AGREED MFA HAD BOTH FACTS AND DATES CORRECT IN SECOND NOTE, AND EXPRESSED DESIRE TO HAVE MEETINGS BEGIN IN CAIRO ON OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 1. RAMADAN, STARTING ABOUT SEPTEMBER 5, IS NOT CONSIDERED A PROBLEM. SHINNAWI LEAVES CAIRO SEPTEMBER 2 AND DR. FOUAD MOURSİ, DIRGEN OF AERONAUTICS, WOULD LEAD DELEGATION AFTER THAT DATE.

4. EMBOFF STRESSED TO ABU ZEID AND SHENNAWI USG UNDERSTANDING THAT NO RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE IMPOSED DURING COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS. BOTH AGREED, POINTING OUT THAT THIS WAS REASON THEY WANTED TO START AT BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER SO THAT NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO DATE SET FOR ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS. EMBOFF AGREED TO FORWARD REQUEST TO DEPARTMENT AND REPORT REPLY.

5. COMMENT: EGYPTIANS CLEARLY FEEL THAT TWA'S DAILY SERVICE IS HURTING EGYPTIANS ON ROME AND ATHENS RUN -- AND THEY ARE PROBABLY RIGHT. TWA SALES MANAGER TOLD DCM THAT FLIGHTS TO AND FROM ATHENS/ROME ARE PRESENTLY RUNNING AT 90 PERCENT LOAD FACTOR. EGYPTAIR, PRESUMABLY AS RESULT POOR SCHEDULING, HAS EVEN TURNED FAIRLY LARGE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS OVER TO TWA AND OTHER AIRLINES AT VARIOUS TIMES FOR ATHENS/ROME DESTINATIONS. GOE, ALTHOUGH PREPARED TO ABIDE BY OCTOBER 1 DEADLINE, APPARENTLY WANTS TO COMPLTE NEGOTIATIONS BEFOREHAND WITH OBJECTIVE OF REDUCING FREQUENCY OF TWA FLIGHTS TO ATHENS AND ROME AS HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY PROPOSED.
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